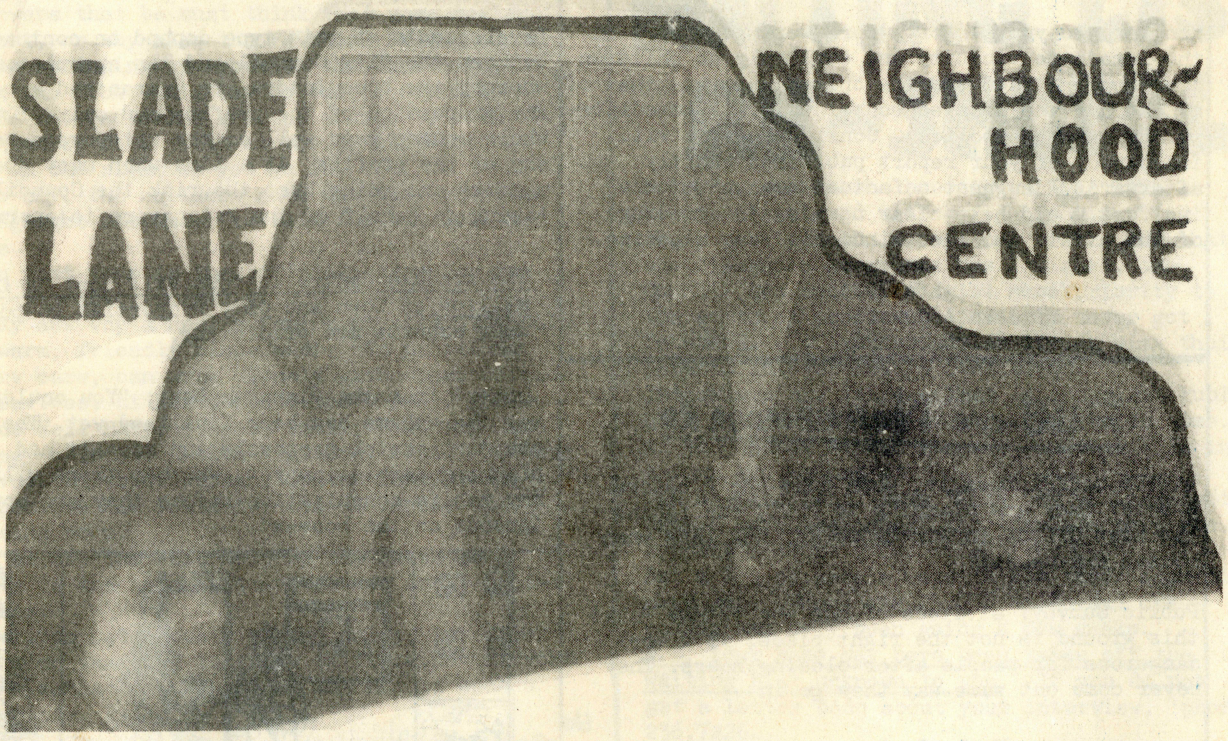
LONGSIGHT NEWS

Nº 13 JAN/FEB



New Management Committee considering plans for alterations at 642 Stockport Road.

On the 8th December on a cold evening, at least 45 people turned up at 642 Stockport Road, interested in the formation of a committee to organise and carry out the running of the Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre.

The proceedings were helped by Mr. Mike Illidge from the Housing Dept., a chairperson from the Social Services. Also present were Andy Wiggans, a social co-ordinator who had helped organise the meeting and had informed all persons and parties whom he thought might be interested in the project.

The discussion was opened by Mike Illidge who stated relevant facts, and obligations which would be incurred should the house be taken over by a Committee.

He pointed out that the building was in a sorry state of disrepair, and would need at least £12,000--£15,000 spent on it to restore it to a serviceable condition. In fact one part of the building would have to be demolished, as it is in a dangerous condition.

There was a murmur of surprise at the amount disclosed, but he pointed out that looking around for help in this matter there had been found two community projects which volunteered to be of assistance in such cases.

It was decided to approach one of these. This was an organisation formed to help school leavers to acquire some skills in the building trade, to enable them to apply for a job in that line. Such projects are designed to occupy the time while unemployed instead of doing nothing useful. It was thought that to approach such a body would result in reducing the original estimate to approximately £6,500 as the work would be done more or less on a voluntary basis.

The whole of the draft constitution was then discussed item by item. This took quite a long time because many of the items had to be amended to the special circumstances of the house, and proposed governing body in question.

continued on page 4

Letters

ACCIDENT

May I suggest that it would be in the interests of your paper to print an authentic account of the accident on Monday March 31st 1975 whereby St Agnes school wall was partly demolished by my car. The true facts are as follows:

Travelling up Clitheroe Rd in the direction of Slade Lane on approaching Hamilton Rd at a speed of about 8 - 10 mph I applied my brakes in order to stop at the major road. Much to my horror the car failed to reduce speed and in order to avoid going over into Hamilton Rd I turned the car left to mount the nearside pavement and to consequently collide with the school wall.

Contrary to your report there were no people in the immediate vicinity and certainly no children crossing the road and the only damage was that of my car and the decayed school wall. (I immediately informed the police). Considering the wild inaccuracy of your report published shortly afterwards I suggest a factual account of the incident would help clear up misunderstandings of the affair and also vindicate your magazine.

Yours faithfully,
Mr Alan Ainsworth,
71 Clitheroe Rd

PUB ON NORTHMOOR RD

LABOUR CARES. Does it, when pubs caome before people? They are planning to build one facing the Post Office in Northmoor Rd. Why this when houses are needed?

Public Survey: attitude of one who drinks - but this ground is not the right place, it's most dangerous for people after closing hours. They never come out same way they go in

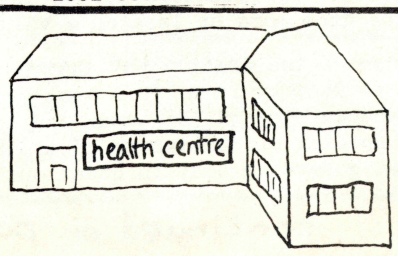
M. A. C. J.

HELP WITH PROBLEMS

I write to inform you that there is now a Counselling Service covering Greater Manchester designed to help people who may have a problem. This is run by the Greater M/c Youth Association and is called 2002. We are situated at 146 The Rock, Bury, but have councillors throughout Greater M/c. We have 2 full time workers so that there is always someone available to help solve your problem whatever it is.

The phone number is 761 2002

Yours faithfully,
Steve Barrow,
2002 counsellor.



LONGSIGHT SHOPPING CENTRE

One year ago Longsight residents and the Greater Manchester Council attacked the plans for big property speculation by JLG Investments (the 'Longsight District Centre"). Opposition was so strong that the plans were shelved.

Now the Council has come up with a smaller scale property speculation, which will go to either JLG of London or to Asda. There will be more smaller shops than in the original plan.

The planners describe it as more "personalised". The demand for shops nearer people's homes particularly on the new estate has been ignored.

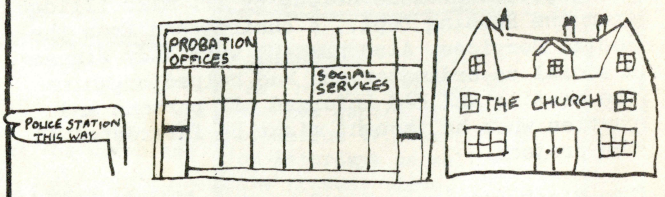
Developments of this type depend on contracts between the City Council and the speculators whereby the speculators are guaranteed a certain proportion of the profits and only if the whole scheme goes well do the ratepayers recoup any of the profits. At a time when many speculators are going bust the risk the Council is taking on behalf of the ratepayers is enormous.

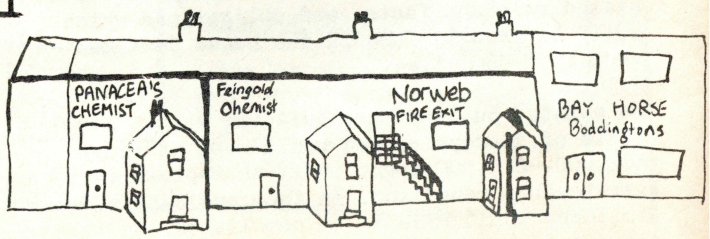
The Arndale Centre in town will cost us £16.5 million if Town and City Properties go bust as many experts are predicting.

Comment from the Planning Dept: "You couldn't say the scheme has been finalised yet. They are just sketch proposals and haven't had planning permission yet. Whether there will be any public consultation before they are approved depends on the bosses".

NO FINES

If you are in receipt of a state pension, you can be excused payment of fines incurred on books borrowed from the libraries; on production of your pension book. Your library ticket will be stamped accordingly





ITCHING AND SCRATCHING

On their morning meander up the A6, observant commuters from N.E.Cheshire have been known to comment on the Longsight stoop with a tendency to scratch.

Some suggest these are due to the cross of having to live in Longsight and the splinters therefrom. The more thoughtful blame the City planners, who have calculated to the nearest centimetre the distance which will bend, but not actually break the Longsight back, after carrying a laden basket from shop to home. The scratching is dismissed as an itch to move to greener pastures.

But all this is pure speculation.

The powers that be must think that some residents are bent, or why else the Palatial Probation offices springing up opposite the Health Centre.

As for the itch, this may be due to our old friends the pediculus and the acarus *, both of which can be dealt with at the Health Centre, first on the right as you go in.

Sad to say, the builders have monetary problems so Longsight will have to wait for its Health Centre.

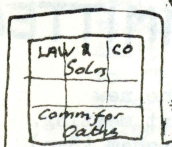
Autumn next year is the official guess for its start, vandals permitting.

You may ask why a Health Centre at all? It should be a warm, friendly place where GPs providing primary care, can work closely with other clinics and services, hitherto scattered widely. These include Well Baby, School, Family Planning, and Cytology clinics, Health Visitors, Social Workers Midwives, District Nurses, Speech Therapists, Chiropodists and Dentists; and of course the cleansing room.

While across the road next to the Probation offices is the new headquarters for Area3 Social Services.

However, do not despair at the delay, for after 60 Clorius years of toasting chillblains in front of your radiators, Longsight may not be such a lousy place.

"Which Doctor"



*doctor's language for lice and scabies

RENT & RATE REBATES

The Town Hall is still in a terrible muddle over these. Hundreds of people applying for a rent rebate should have received a letter requesting them to bring in their rent book. The letter never arrived and so their application has been left on a shelf and not dealt with.

If you get a Rates rebate you should re-apply every 6 months so if the Town Hall fail to notify you, go ahead and re-apply.

PRIVATE TENANTS applying for Rent/Rate rebates are the worst affected by muddles and delays. If you are still waiting , the number to ring is 236.3377 and ask for extension 2659.

WAITING LIST RE-SHUFFLE

Every person on the housing waiting list is being interviewed with a view to improving their position on the waiting list. Now that the clearance programme has finished, the Council has decided to give more priority to the sorts of people who formerly never got rehoused, e.g. young couples living with their parents in overcrowded conditions.

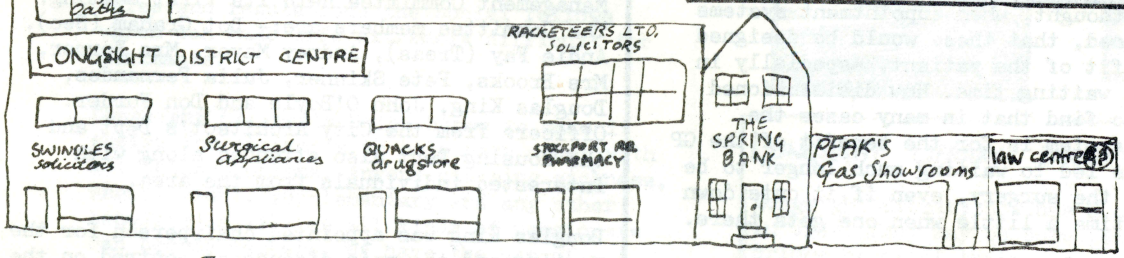
Interviews are taking place in Longsight Public Hall and you get a letter asking you to come. If you cannot attend you are asked to fill in a form and return it.

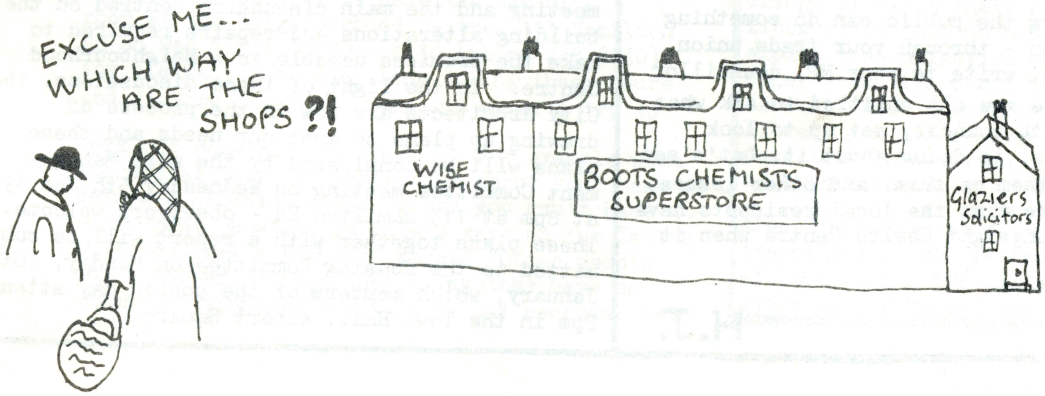
The Housing Dept. says "Only 50% of Longsight people have responded" and they are very disappointed about this.

But a lot of people haven't got their appointment yet. There are 25,000 to do and the scheme has only been going a few weeks.

N.B. Your name may have been taken off the Waiting List unknown to you. If you do not get a letter soon about your interview, 'phone 236.7426.

YOU HAVE TO RE-REGISTER EVERY YEAR. IF YOU DO NOT, YOUR NAME IS TAKEN OFF THE LIST AND YOU HAVE TO START AGAIN FROM SCRATCH.





GOOD MEDICINE FOR SOME

Over heard in a local chemists shop, on presentation by a parent of a prescription for a baby with an acute chest condition . Time 7pm:-

Chemist: Your doctor is particular, isn't he. This prescription specifies a product by a named drug firm and we haven't got it in stock, although it's the same as Penicillin'V'.

Parent: Alright I'll take the Penicillin.

Cemist: Oh I'm afraid I can't do that, I must give you what the doctor has put on the prescription.

Parent: Can you ring the doctor and get permission to change it?

Chemist: I'd do that but he's off duty now and only he can give that permission

Parent: That means baby has to wait til tomorrow, it means another visit to the surgery - it took me all my time to get an appointment to get this prsecription.

Chemist: Oh I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do about it.

* * * * * * *

Is there anything we. the suffering public, can do about it?

Firstly we can understand that many drugs produced by different multinational drug firms are the same as one another, except one firm may charge grossly inflated prices. We can also easily ascertain that these firms make millions of pounds in profit, and spend further millions in getting people such as your G P to prescribe their drug rather than the same drug of another firm.

APPOINTMENT SYSTEMS.

Many people thought, when appointment systems were introduced, that these would be designed for the benefit of the patient, especially in cutting down waiting time. How disillusioned we've been to find that in many cases the appointment system is for the benefit of the GP only, and has led to waiting much longer to be allowed into the surgery, even if it cuts down the waiting time a little when one gets there.

ACTION!

There are many ways the public can do something about the situation - through your trade union or political party, write to your MP, councillor tc. But I think we are all entitled to ask what the community health council, set up to look after our interests, is doing about it. Let's see some action from them on this, and other issues, such as making sure that the local residents have some say in the Longsight Health Centre when it gets going.

H.J.

PUBLIC MEETING

continued from front cover

However the salient features emerged and the Constitution was approved and adopted.

Delegates to the meeting (both individuals and groups) voted for representatives to be elected to a new committee to co-ordinate the activities of the Neighbourhood Centre, and their first meeting would also be an open meeting.

The Constitution side being settled, officers were elected as the new Secretary (Dot Graham) and Treasurer (Andie Fay) who would have to sign and be responsible for the lease of the premises when it is handed o ver by the City Council.

Next, the new Management Committee was elected, there being a fair representation of the people present at the meting. During a discussion as to the "functions" of the Management Committee it was agreed that memebers need not be in any particular group. Rather these people would be the core people responsible for the day to day running of the Centre and that groups wishing to use the Centre and whose aims complied wwith the Constitution would send representatives along to the monthly meetings with voting rights. These meetings will be open to any interested individual or group but only those who directly "contributed to the running of the Centre and the achievement of its objects" would be eligible to vote.

And so the new Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre was launched. May it have a successful and useful purpose for the people of Longsight and district.

T.P.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

On Monday evening, December 13, the new Management Committee held its first meeting. The Committee members are:- Dot Graham (Sec), Andie Fay (Treas), Audrey Mayor, Mrs Horner, Mrs Brooks, Pete Skinner, Julia Fernandes, Douglas King, John O'Boyle and Don Forder. Officers from the City Architect's Dept and the Housing Dept also attended along with interested individuals from the area.

Douglas King was appointed chairperson for the meeting and the main discussion centred on the building alterations and repairs required to make the premises useable as a Neighbourhood Centre. In the light of these discussions, the City Architects are now in the process of drawing up plans to meet our needs and these plans will be considered by the next Management Committee meeting on Wednesday 5th Jan 1977 at 8pm at 113 Hamilton Rd - observers welcome. These plans together with a report will be submitted to the Housing Committee on Monday, 10th January, which members of the public may attend. 2pm in the Town Hall, Albert Square.

WHAT IS LONGSIGHT NEWS?

we get the local gossip, find out what's true and what's false and let you know the truth.

We're expressing the views of the ordinary people of Longsight - views that wouldn't be reported truthfully by the commercial papers.

Too many individuals and community groups take part in making the paper for u s to give all the names. Stories that just give the facts are not signed , but storiesthat give the writer's personal opinions are signed or initialled.

Please call at 113 Hamilton Rd or drop us a line if you would like to join in in any way - bwith ideas for news items, writing, drawing, typing or designing the paper, or selling it on your street or at work.

لانگ سائٹ کی تازہ خبریں
آئیے مزہ خود فرمائیے۔

ہم ہر خاص و عام جس کا لب و لہجہ اختیار کرتے ہیں۔
ہم ہر ہفتہ آپ ہی کے خیالوں کا اظہار جو کہ مقامی اخبارات میں صحیح ترجمانی نہیں ہوتی ہے۔ کیونکہ ہمیں بہت سے عام اور کمیونٹی گروپ کے افراد جو کہ اخبارات میں اپنا اظہار خیال کرتے ہیں جس میں۔ کہانیاں اور بیانات دیتے ہوتے ہیں۔ جس کے نیچے کوئی دستخط یا تصدیق نہیں ہوتی ہے۔ صرف کہانیوں میں مصنف کا اپنا اظہار ہوتا ہے اور دستخط ہوتے ہیں۔

اگر آپ کوئی ہماری خدمات کر سکتے ہیں۔ تو ہم آپ کا دل سے شکریہ ادا کریں گے۔ آپ مہربانی کر کے 113 ہیملٹن روڈ پر تشریف لائیں۔ اور اپنے خیالات اور نظریات کا اظہار کریں۔ خواہ لکھائی کی شکل میں! ڈرائنگ۔ ڈیزائن۔ ٹائپ اور ان کے علاوہ ـــــ
اور ان کی خدمات کا دل و جان سے شکریہ ادا کریں گے۔
ہماری اگلی میٹنگ بدھ 20 نومبر 1974ء کو 113 ہیملٹن روڈ پر 7.30 بجے شام منعقد ہوگی۔

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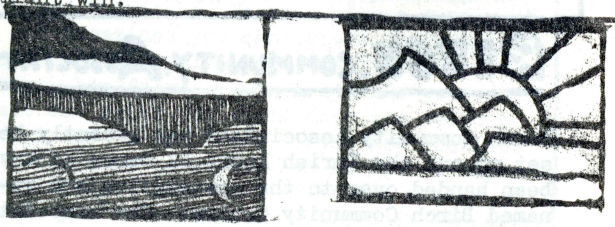
CLAIMANTS UNION

Newspapers often feature stories about Social Security "scroungers" - giving the impression that people claiming from the social are on the fiddle, living off the fat of the land at the taxpayers expense. Anyone who has ever been a claimant themselves or had friends or relatives in that position know things aren't really like that. Most claimants find it hard to manage on the money they are given. Many don't get all the benefits they are entitled to. There are all kinds of mistakes and misunderstandings because of the complicated rules and regulations the Social follows which can make life extremely difficult for claimants.

Longsight Claimants Union hopes to make it easier for claimants to help each other with all these problems. Anyone claiming sickness, unemployment, supplementary and any other benefits as well as all kinds of pensioners can become members. We have the use of a room at the Neighbourhood Centre, 113 Hamilton Rd on Wed & Fri 10.30 - 4.30 (phone 248 6640). Any claimant can come along during these hours and discuss their problems and we will try to work out something to be done. For example when the Social makes some decision about your case eg refuse a clothing grant or say you can't have unemployment benefit; it always says on the letter that you have a right of appeal. Often people don't bother because they think thay have no chance of winning. But this is not necessarily true!

The Claimants Union will help you write a letter saying you wish to appeal the decision. When they get this letter they will have to look up your case and they may realise they have made a mistake and accept your appeal right away. If not you will be notified that your case will appear before an Appeals Tribunal at a certain date and time. It is important to go along to the tribunal to argue your case. The Claimants Union will help you prepare your appeal and go with you to the tribunal to help you present it - and you might win!



LONGSIGHT LIBRARY: BOOKS IN URDU.

Longsight Library now has a collection of books in Urdu. They may be borrowed by anyone who brings proof of their name and address to the library. So that we can get more money to expand the collection and also buy books in other Asian languages we need to make sure it is well used. Therefore, the staff of Longsight Library ask all readers of Longsight News to pass this information on to anyone they think might be interested.

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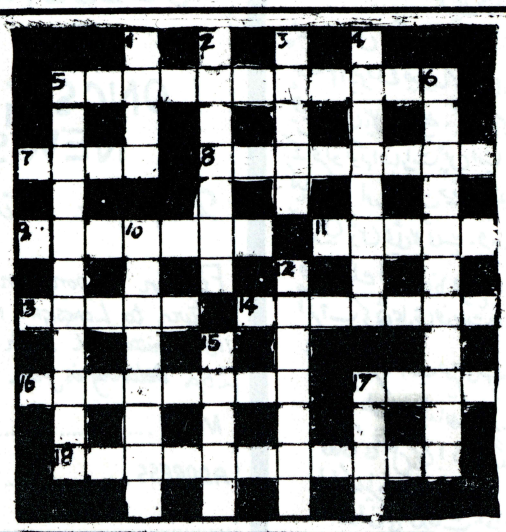
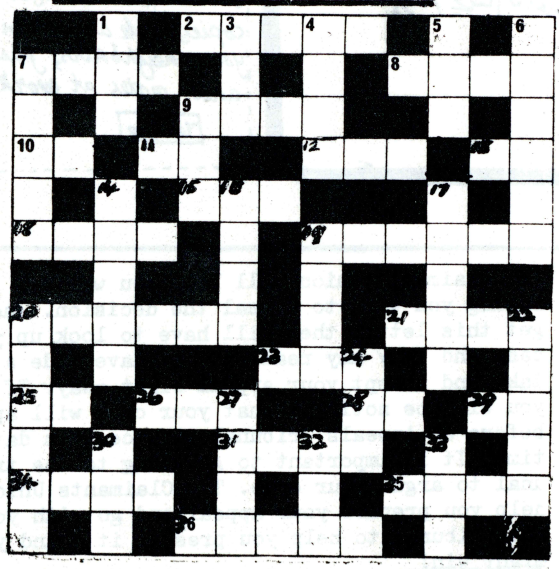
Also, to those Asians who are interested in learning English, we have a large selection of books which are suitable, and the Library staff will give you any help you need.

Prize Crossword



QUICK X-WORD



CLUES FOR PRIZE X WORD

ACROSS 5.It is a grand way of putting it with a thousand(11) 7.See, in this sentence he sees pygmies(4) 8.Maybe in a union!(8) 9.A meter that creates large elevenses(7) 11.Sound like Williams, but we get large ones if we have 9 (5) 13.This is a demand you can't ignore(5) 14.Just the thing for the house hunter(3.4) 16.The district attorney helps Bess to a cleaner(4.4) 17.Sounds as if it hurts, but you can see through it(4) 18.You can only picture it(6.5)

DOWN 1.In fact lad, you've changed sex(4) 2.God, we hear you give support(7) 3.Not usually sported by 8 across(5) 4.Flown high to scatter a slim aria(3.5) 5. 8 across isn't one of these.(11) 6.One down can't act like this (11) 10.Could you hear this in Victoria Park years ago?(4.4) 12. A number of workers who join associations?(7) 15.Road, hill, or get on (5) 17.Street, hand, or tree?(4)

WIN A POUND!

SEND YOUR SOLUTIONS TO LONGSIGHT NEWS, 113 Hamilton Rd, Longsight - first correct solution opened wins a pound!

CLUES FOR QUICK X-WORD.

ACROSS 2. A general or an allowance(5) 7. With the wind?(4) 8.Can float at the seaside (4) 9. Heat measure(4) 10. Not off! (2) 11. Breakfast - Tiffany's(2) 12. Tiny?(3) 13. Your umbrella when it rains?(2) 15.Biblical temptress(3) 18. Don't push(4) 19.Tells you when it is your turn(6) 20.16 down repeated?(6) 21.Before the storm(4) 23.In possession of(3) 25.Near to(2) 26.Token of thanks(3) 28.Not out sir!(2) 29.Alternatively(2) 31.The emerald isle (4) 34.Orient(4) 35.May be staged(4) 36.Smooth (5)

DOWN 1.Worker(3) 3.Ewe's husband(3) 4.Egg con container(4) 5.Youngster(3) 6.Active 5 down?(6) 7.Blood or musical(5) 9.Consumed(3) 14.On one hand(5) 16.Look at (4) 17.Off the straight and narrow?(5) 19.Girl from Rio?(4) 20.We've had burglars(6) 22.Join together(5) 27.Undress?(4) 30.Request(3) 32.The local?(3) 33.Nobody excluded(3)

BIRCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Birch Community Association has recently been set up and the Parish Rooms in Danes Rd have been handed over to the association and renamed Birch Community Centre. The association finally adopted its constitution at a general meeting on November 18th. Some members were concerned about where financial responsibility ultimately lies and this matter has been referred to a solicitor for advice. But in the main the draft constitution was considered acceptable. The meeting set up a provisional General Council to hold office until the first full General Meeting in March, at which a new General Council will be elected. Each member organisation of the Centre is entitled to appoint a representative to sit on the Council and put forward its views. Any organisation which has not done so and wishes to exercise this right is advised to get in touch withthe Secretary.

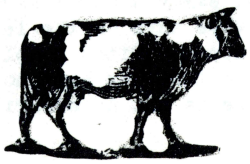
CONT.

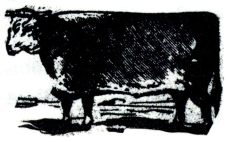
CONT.

Forthcoming events

8th January	Party/Dance at Birch Centre. Bring your own drink.
15th January	Barn Dance. 7.30pm at Birch Centre. Tickets 50p from Geoff Heggarty or at the door.
18th January (Tuesday)	Pantomime 7pm at the Forum, Wythenshawe. Coach leaves Birch Centre at 6pm. Tickets £1 incl. coach fare from Louise Rhodes, 7 Birch Grove, or Maureen Kerr at the Centre.

Further information : Maureen Kerr (Sec), Birch Community Centre, Danes Road, Birch-in-Rusholme, Manchester 14.





RIGHT TO FUEL

GAS AND ELECTRIC CUT-OFFS

This winter with the cost of fuel higher than ever before and money being tighter than ever before, more and more people are experiencing the horror of having their fuel supply cut off. Even families with babies have no heating and only candles to see by.
Council tenants in new or modernised flats are usually the worst hit because their fuel bills are usually higher and when they are cut off there is no open fireplace to burn wood or coal. If Council tenants use paraffin heaters they risk eviction for breaking the tenancy agreement.

THE RIGHT TO FUEL CAMPAIGN demands that fuel supplies should not be cut off but that fuel debts, like any others, should be recovered through the Courts.
Right to Fuel Campaign also says that fuel should be a right and everyone should be able to afford it. People should be allowed to have prepayment meters. The Social Services, Social Security and Gas and Electricity Boards should get together properly when people cannot pay through poverty and arrange payment to be made so a cut-off is avoided.

CONT'D

JOB CREATION? Young people are being inveigled into schemes allegedly to fill their spare time while unemployed, in such enterprises as counting dustbins, street grids, and carving heads out of pieces of wood. Such activities are costing thousands of pounds and are merely a smoke screen to hide the fact of the serious situation of thousands of young people who have been out of work for many months, and display little enthusiasm for such schemes, when they know that they will still be unemployed at the end of the course and very few firms will put credence on their abilities, as opposed to a proper apprenticeship.

Every house on the new Estate has had to have all the electric sockets changed because of a possible fault in the manufacture. No explanation or warning was given. Tenants can only guess that to save money the Council used cheap fittings and nobody knows how much danger they have been living with all this time.

Greenwood House laundry is to be closed by the council even though it was officially recommended that it should stay open because it is such a valuable service. Why is it to close then? Because it was not making a profit.

RIGHT TO FUEL - CONT'D..

CUT-OFFS IN LONGSIGHT

People at the Law Centre and the Hamilton Road Advice Centre hear many horrible tales of cut-offs. They have also been able to help quite a lot of people to avoid cut-offs or get payment in future arranged with the Social Security so fuel supplies can be reconnected.
The sad fact is that if you are faced with a cut-off, the Gas Board or the Electricity Board will not listen to your pleas for a week's grace or your offer to pay it off at £2 a week. If you are a claimant, Clarence Road will not listen to your pleas for help. One woman from the Anson Estate was even told she was not entitled to help because she had no previous record as a bad payer!

GET TOGETHER!

But if people join together, if they are backed up by neighbours and can say on the 'phone "This is the Neighbourhood Centre" or "This is the Right to Fuel Campaign" they are taken much more seriously because the officials are scared of numbers.
A Longsight Right to Fuel Campaign would be a way people here could help each other to resist cut-offs and by joining up with local groups from all over the country, it would have a chance of influencing Parliament to make the Gas and Electricity system fairer to poor people.

Interested in a Longsight Right to Fuel Campaign? Contact Julia Fernandes, c/o 113 Hamilton Road.

WOMENS CENTRE

A new womens centre opened at the end of November in the Longsight Neighbourhood Centre. A room is available in the Centre every Thursday from10.30 til 6pm for women to drop in and make use of. It's warm(!), there's tea, coffee and biscuits, and other women who can give a bit of help with legal problems - housing, SS, family problems etc - and with health, coping with doctors and hospitals. There's also a supply of books and magazines you can browse through, and leaflets on family planning, Equal Rights, Insurance, benefits for women etc. Or you can just sit and relax and chat. Kids are welcome too. When the Centre moves to the new premises at 642 Stockport Rd we hope to be open 2 days a week at least; more news after the move. Meanwhile you're welcome to call in at 113 any time on a Thursday - hope to see you.

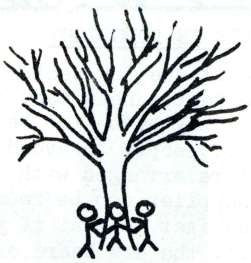
SHORTSIGHT NEWS

A representative of North British Housing Association who was due to meet our own Birch Housing Co-op at their office at 113 Hamilton Road, phoned up the day before to find out how to get there.

The reason he was worried about finding it was that he had a map of the area, generously supplied by the Manchester City Council, which marked the spot as derelict land.

Fight hots up

BIRCH HOUSING CO-OP.



At the Birch Housing Co-operative committee meeting of the 9th December it was reported to the relief of all those present, that government approval had been given for the loan needed to purchase our first house. By now the contract has been signed and builders have been informed that they may be able to start work on improving the house by the end of January. As it is nearly two years since the co-operative was formed and there have been many setbacks in that time it is very rewarding to reach this stage on the first house.

Meanwhile, the co-operative are working on the purchase of several other houses in the area and hopefully some of these will be co-op owned in the next few months. The reason it takes the co-op longer to buy a house than, say, a private individual, is the need for approval by local government. The co-op deals with several government depatments, as well as solicitors, architects, quantity surveyors in the process of buying a house since before that purchase can be approved we must present complete plans for any improvements with their expected cost together with the purchase price of the house. The total cost of the house plus improvements must then come below a ceiling cost fixed by the Housing Corporation

Once the co-operative owns a house and has tenants, it acts as a non-profit making landlord The tenants will pay fixed fair rents which will be used to repay government loans, and as they will all be members of the co-op, will have a say in how it is run.

We had hoped to have bought one members house off the landlord months ago. We applied for a loan from Manchester Corporation in April. But they are so slow that we haven't heard from them yet.

So in October we asked the Health Dept. to look at the house and even though the roof leaked, there is no hot water, the electric wiring was dangerous and a chimney as well, they said there was nothing they could do.

We couldn't accept this and so we got another member who knows about electricity to do a report on how bad the wiring was. The day after that was sent in Norweb turned the electricity off and the Health Dept. did get on to the landlord about it. There is a special Manchester Corporation Act of 1958 which requires them to take action in cases like this and we said we'd take them to court if nothing happened.

We didn't have to, the house has now been rewired completely at the landlord's expense, and the roof repaired. But still we have had no loan to buy that house from Manchester Corporation.

So far over 100 houses have had their meters removed and every tenant visited knows of a friend or neighbour who wishes to be "de-metered". The work however is time consuming and the shortage of volunteers to join the working party has meant that fewer houses have had "meters" removed than could have been done.
Still the working party has done wonders to get nearly 1000 "meters"taken off and a full report will appear in the next issue as to how and when they were handed in.

The LTA meets on Tuesday every fortnight, in the Longsight Methodist Church Hall at 8.00 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend or volunteer their services should contact Ken Strath, Secretary, 2 Burdett Way, Longsight or 'phone Dave Shaw on 273 3003.

METER REMOVAL THE ONLY SOLUTION

At the Public Meeting held in the Longsight Methodist Church on Thursday 11th November a decision was taken to pursue direct action to finally get rid of Clorius devices.

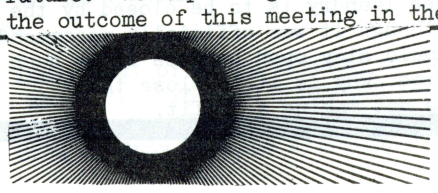
At the meeting members of the LTA said that they had handed in a petition of over 1000 signatures, had produced two reports and had met the Chairman of Housing Committee, Councillor Roberts, several times but all to no avail. The Council's view was to give the "meters" another 12 months, even though a report considered by the Housing Committee expressed strong reservations about the way in which the accounts are prepared.

Direct action seemed to be the only solution and all those present agreed that if a united stand was taken the threats of eviction could not be carried out.

N.U.P.E. JOINS FIGHT

Several members of the Longsight Tenants' Association (LTA) met members of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), Housing Section, on Thursday 9th December to put the tenants' case.

The NUPE members listened very sympathetically to the arguments put forward and, as officers of the Housing Department, their support will be vital in achieving our aims. The LTA's representatives were informed that the results of the meeting would be put to a full branch meeting of NUPE in the near future. We hope to give more good news of the outcome of this meeting in the next issue



by tenants over meters

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

During the course of our campaign over the past 2 years we have contacted many groups throughout the country who are also fighting for the removal of Clorius devices from their homes. On several occasions we shared information and experiences with these groups in an informal way, but we gradually came to realize that only by getting all of these groups together in a Conference could real progress be made on an united basis.

On Saturday 6th November in the Longsight Methodist Hall groups from Longsight, Crewe, Runcorn, Rochdale, Nottingham, Leicester and Coldville met, along with representatives from the National Consumer Council, the Law Centre, Community Action and technical advisers to discuss setting up a National Campaign against Clorius devices.

Every group present reported high surcharges and/or weekly charges and in most cases when bills had not been paid, the council concerned had not taken action. As a representative from each group gave an account of their campaign, it was clear that the Longsight Tenants' Association is NOT on its own in its struggle to get rid of Clorius.

DAVID McGUIRE

MARY O'ROURKE

SOME SUPPORTERS OF CLORIUS OUT NOW CAMPAIGN

At the end of a very successful day the following resolution was unanimously agreed:

(1) To set up a national campaign to co-ordinate the action of tenants' Associations and heating action groups against Clorius devices linked to block and district heating schemes.

(2) To set up a coordination committee to explore possible campaign tactics and organize direct action on a national level.

(3) That all tenants organizations campaigning against Clorius devices should be able to affiliate to the Campaign and to send along at least one representative to the coordinating committee.

The name of this national campaign should be the National Heat Metering Action Campaign, going under the slogan of Clorius Out Now (CON).

1ST MEETING OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE

On Saturday 11th December the first meeting of the National Heat Metering Action Campaign took place in St. Ann's, Nottingham.

Unfortunately the icy roads and proximity to Christmas, kept the attendance down to groups from Leicester, Nottingham and Longsight. The morning was spent distriburing Leaflets, urging people to support the Campaign, in the St. Ann's Shopping Centre and during the afternoon it was agreed that:

(i) all members should be notified about elections of officers and should make nominations to be agreed on at the next meeting to be held towards the end of February 1977.

(ii) letters should be written to the District Heating Association and Department of the Environment telling them about the National Campaign and urging them to take immediate action to ban Clorius devices.

DAVE SHAW

MARGARET CUNNEY

NEWS FROM THE NEW ESTATE

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

On Guy Fawkes night the playground was crowded by about 200 people to watch an excellent firework display, set off bravely by Andy from the top of the platform. A grand bonfire kept everyone warm (we hope) from 6.30 till the last few people left around 9.00. Thanks to those who brought their own fireworks; these and the main display fireworks were being continuously set off for nearly 2 hours. Also thanks to the committee members who made lots of soup, toffee apples, bread and treacle toffee. A collection towards running the van came to £9.83 - thanks to all who contributed. Most important of all, everybody there seemed to be really enjoying the occasion - no matter what age.

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The Parents Social mentioned in the last issue has been postponed - we hope it will be after Christmas.

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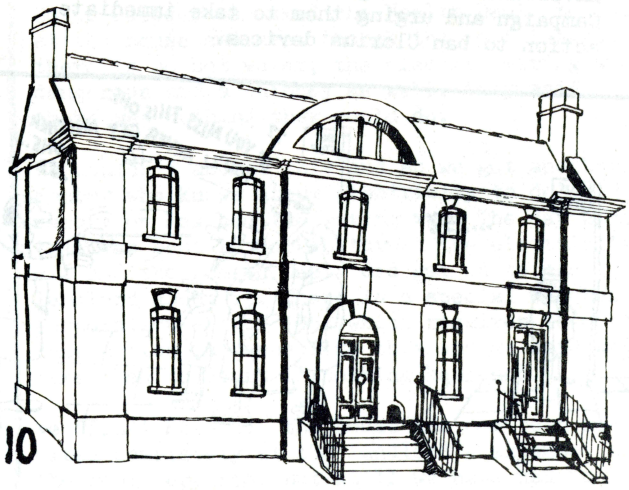
Two 3-day camps have been arranged for weekends in January and February, with another Adventure Playground from Cleator in Cumbria. This camp will NOT be under canvas in case you're shivering already but in barns and the like. Anyone wishing to know more should contact Iris Chappell on 273 3096.

• • • • • •

Regular weekly events are a Youth Club every Tues at 7.15pm in the West Indian Centre, Carmoor Rd. Five-a-side football and netball every Sunday afternoon at Moss Side Leisure Centre, meet at the Adventure Playground at 2.15, price 10p.

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE AT LAST.



LONGSIGHT & THE CUTS

Called by the Trade Unions the National Union of Public Employees and the Confederation of Health Service Employees and others connected with the social services, the march and lobby of of Parliament on November 17th was one of the biggest events that London had seen for many years.

• • • • • •

The object was to bring to the attention of our MPs and the country the opposition of masses of trade unionists to cuts in the social services, health, etc. These cuts are not only leading to unemplyment amongst public service workers, building workers etc. but also depriving the people of adequate health care and welfare services, and creating a socially derelict society.

NOVEMBER 17 LOBBY

Just before participating in the November 17th lobby, I had attended a meeting in the Longsight Public Hall, about the use of that hall by groups of all kinds in the Longsight area. Representatives from the Recreation and Education Committees of the council made it quite clear that use of the hall by community groups would cost the full "economic" price, due to cuts in local authority spending making it impossible to give the traditional subsidies.

I wrote to Gerald Kaufman, the MP for the constituency, saying I would like to see him on

CONT. PAGE-

LONGSIGHT PUBLIC HALL. The Steering Committee has now been granted an annual license to use rooms in the Public Hall and details of the reduction to be made in the hourly charges for hire of rooms are now being discussed at a meeting with the Recreational Services Dept.

The list below gives details of which groups are involved in the project and what hours and what day they require. We hope that when the new Community Association is established in the New Year tenants, particularly those in the new Longsight estate, will support the activities undertaken and will join the Community Association at the Public Meeting also to be organised in the New Year. We hope eventually to have a building of our own for all the community to use and we intend, once we have got established to press for the use of Longsight Library when it is vacated in about 12 months time.

Any individual or group wishing to find out more about the proposed Longsight Community Association should contact either Dave McGuire 273 2238 or Andy Wiggans 273 1632.

Cont from P10

the 17th, in particular to discuss these local authority cuts, which, taking the high cost of the use of local halls as an example, hut the poorest sections of the community. Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on how one sees it) I was unable to get to see the MP due to the size of queues at the lobbies. He did write to me, however, pointing out that he agreed that the Corporation should give priority to matters such as the provision of meeting places at reasonable rates, when deciding where cuts should be made.

We have a right to question, however, whether cuts in social services and local authority spending, which have so far done nothing to solve our economic problems, and have led to unemployment and hardship to the young and elderly, are justified.

We have a right and duty to demand that our local councillors and MPs carry out the job for which they were elected, that is, to preserve and improve the quality of life of their constituents and not stand by and watch its rapid erosion. H.J.

Tenants are still being illegally evicted in these areas by landlords who want to sell out at vacant possession price to the council, while the housing officers close their eyes to what is going on.

If your landlord or landlady wants to sell to the Corporation STAY PUT!! They will get only a quarter of the money they would get if you moved; you will get a council tenancy.

Leaflets on tenants' rights in the housing action area are available in English and Urdu from 113 Hamilton Road.

HELP WITH ELECTRIC BILLS

Everyone on Supplementary Benefit or F.I.S. will get one-quarter of this quarter's electric bill paid by Social Security. All you do is get a token from the Post Office when your bill comes in and send it to Norweb.

MOBILE

The Neighbourhood Centre at last has a van. This can be used for trips and outings, removals and collections of furniture etc. All enquiries, bookings to 113 Hamilton Rd.

BUS
DAM - NO BUSES..
NO BUSES DUE TO CUTS
HMM - THEY'VE SHUT THAT AND ALL..
CLINIC CLOSED
DIDN'T YOU KNOW - WE'VE MADE ALL YOU GIRLS REDUNDANT!
WORKS
THIS IS DRIVING ME BONKERS!
LUNATIC ASYLUM SPENDING TO BE SLASHED

Proposed Programme for the use of rooms in the Longsight Public Hall.

In drawing up this list particular attention has been paid to keeping the bookings to a limited number of days. The hours required have have also been kept to a bare minimum to avoid over-committing the Committee and consequently allowance will, we hope, have to be made in future months to allow for new groups to get involved and existing ones to expand.

Monday 6-9pm weekly, Adventure Playground using Small Hall for a Junior Youth Club for 75p per hour. See note 1 below.

Tuesday 7.30-10pm fortnightly. Tenants' Association using small Committee room or the basement room for 50p per hour. This groups also requires the occasional use of larger rooms for public meetings, jumble sales, etc.

Thursday 2-4pm weekly, Good Companions Over 60s Club using Small Hall for £1 per hour.
7-10pm weekly. Adventure Playground using Small Hall for Senior Youth Club for 75p per hour.
7.30-10pm fortnightly. Use of small committee room or the basement room by the One Parent Family Group for 50p per hour.

Saturday 1-5pm use of small committee room or the basement room for art and craft work with a few children run by the Adventure Playground. For 75p per hour.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. The Gardening Club wish to use the small committee room or the basement room from 7-9pm monthly during the winter for 50p per hour. This will probably be on Monday evenings.
2. Initially 10 optional uses of the Large Hall will be required for socials, parties, etc. Notice of use will be given one month in advance and the appropraite rate then agreed.
3. Initially 10 uses of the Small Hall will be required to cater for new groups being formed and for existing groups to hold fund raising activities etc. Notice of use will be given two weeks in advance and the appropriate rate agreed.

LOCAL HISTORY GORTON FOUNDRY

NORTH WESTERN MUSEUM OF SCIENCES AND INDUSTRY

A visit to the Science Museum in Grosvenor Street, will provide Gortonians and dwellers in Longsight with some interesting information about Beyer and Peacock's of Gorton.

Many of the informative photographs and papers relating to the Gorton Foundry were donated to the Science Museum.

Richard Peacock, (born 1820 and died 1889) was a member of the firm, which took photographs of every locomotive built by them, from 1856 to 1960.

The foresight of Richard Peacock was of importance to Gorton, when he took over a large acreage of land on which the firm could expand.

Charles Frederick Beyer (1818 to 1876) was the son of a poor weaver from Plauen in Saxony.
After attending the Dresden Polytechnic he was granted a travel scholarship, and made a trip to England.
This influenced him later to enter the firm of Sharp Roberts and Co. in Manchester.

This firm began making locomotives in 1837, and later Beyer became Chief Engineer.

He left this firm disappointed in not receiving a partnership, or possibly being refused marriage by one of Sharp's daughters.

PARTNERSHIP

A year later he entered into partnership with Richard Peacock; to start a firm of mechanical engineers, whose business was to be confined to the manufacture of locomotives.

Richard Peacock at that time was the Superintendent of the Manchester and Sheffield Railway, and had become acquainted with Beyer through buying locomotives at Sharp Robert and Co., and also the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, which they both helped to found in 1847.

Peacock had left Leeds Grammar School at 14 and became an apprentice with Fenton-Murrey and Jackson in Leeds.

Later he became superintendent of the Leeds and Selby Railway and later worked with The Great Western.
In 1841 he became locomotive superintendent of the Sheffield, Ashton under Lyne and Manchester Railway and laid out the railway workshops nicknamed 'Gorton Tank'.

Through his influence Gorton became a great engineering centre.

CONT'D

PARTNERSHIP --CONT'D

Later the third partner, Henry Robertson (1816 to 1888) joined the firm. Robertson had great experience with railways, both in the running and construction; and was a valuable asset to the firm.

The first engine actually completed left the Gorton Foundry on the 21st of July 1855, and cost £2,660 !!

An excellent brochure can be obtained from the Science Museum, giving fuller details and photos of locomotives built by Beyer-Peacock, from small shunt engines to the powerful Beyer Garratt locomotives. In fact the largest engine built in Europe (1932) weighed 262.5 tons in working order, and was built for the Russian Railways.

Gorton Foundry closed in 1966 due to the replacement of steam locomotives by diesel and electric traction.

It is interesting to note that the Lodge which stood at the entrance to The Hall where Richard Peacock lived is up for sale, and one pillar of the gate still stands.

The initials R.P. can be seen on the side of the Lodge.
The Lodge is on the corner of Far Lane.

The Brookdale Unitarian Church on Hyde Road which Richard Peacock endowed contains the vaults where he lies, with others of his family; and on the side of the church building facing Hyde Road is a memorial plaque, with a carving of Richard Peacock's head, and an anvil with a workman on each side, and an inscription below which states:-

In memory of Richard Peacock C.E. M.P.

This tablet was erected by the employees of Gorton Foundry, to the memory of their late and respected employer, who represented the Gorton Division of East Lancs., in Parliament from its inception as a separate constituency until his death.

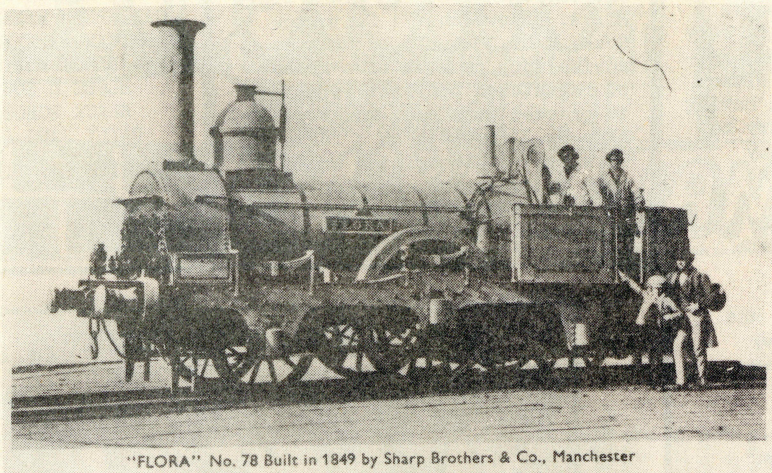
He was a man of sterling qualities, kind, and an unostentious friend of the poor and needy; and a supporter of all agencies for the social elevation of the people.

These remarks are borne out as true facts, as older people residing in the area, confirmed that R. Peacock was very respected by all in the neighbourhood. This information was passed on to the next generation.

RP

THE PRIDE OF GORTON FOUNDRY.

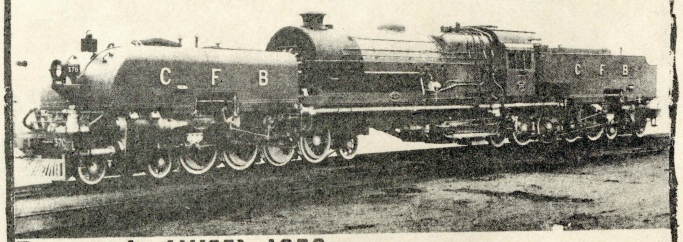
HISTORY OF GORTON FOUNDRY AND SHARP BROS



"FLORA" No. 78 Built in 1849 by Sharp Brothers & Co., Manchester
Manchester, South Junction and Altrincham Railway

AND SHARP BROS

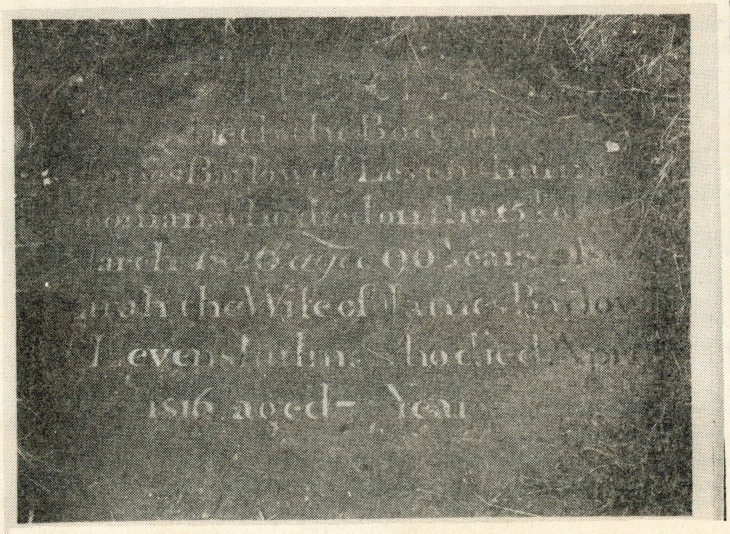
COURTESY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM GROSVENOR STREET M/C..



Benguela (11165), 1956.

The Beyer Garratt

LOCAL INTEREST



BEAUTY AND NEGLECT

Near to Brookdale Church in Far Lane and Ryder Brow are some pretty cottages built in the 1700's, and facing hidden among rubble and weeds is a gravestone, which on being cleared of weeds will be seen the inscription:

Here lieth the Body of James Barlow of Levenshulme, Yeoman, who died on the 15th of March 1826 aged 90 years, also Sarah the Wife of James Barlow of Levenshulme who died April 4th 1816 aged 77 years.

ADVERTS

LESBIANS/HOMOSEXUALS/BISEXUALS

If you feel attracted to people of your own sex it is usually very difficult to talk to friends, family etc. about it. People often feel very guilty about even having homosexual desires. They try to forget about them hoping they will go away. But this is no solution - it only leads to further unhappiness. In Manchester we are quite fortunate because there are quite a number of facilities for bisexual and homosexual women and men. There is a Womens Group which has over 450 members including many married women. There is a Youth Group for teenagers; there is a Transvestite and Transexual Group for people who like to dress in clothes normally worn by the opposite sex, or to change their sex (often, despite the impression that is given over on television and in newspapers transvestites and transsexuals are not homosexual and the Group has a lot of married people in it); there are also Groups which are mainly attended by homosexual and bisexual men. All these groups make new members very welcome and if you require any further information about them or about gay pubs and clubs in Manchester, ring the GAY INFORMATION CENTRE any night between 7.0pm and 9.30pm Tel: 061.273.3725. Often people have a lot of guilt about their feelings or would like to talk more before going along to any meeting or social activities. If you have any worries or problems relating to bisexuality or homosexuality, there is a group run by gay women and men specially for this. It is FRIEND Open Mon-Fri. 7.30pm to 10.0pm. 'Phone 061.273.5685.

N U S S

National Union for School Students Fighting for a democratic education system in which school students have the right to organise and negotiate freely within schools. Write for details to: The Information Officer, MANUSS, 178 Waterloo Place, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 0QQ. Phone 061-881.8174.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

113 HAMILTON ROAD

ADVICE OFFICE - OPEN

MONDAY 10AM - 730PM

THURS 2PM - 4PM

Free information on housing, dole, tenants rights, gas & electric charges welfare benefits etc.

If any tenants in the housing improvement area are in difficulty regarding contractors to advise and implement housing grant work Mr. A. Ainsworth, 71 Clitheroe Road, M/cr.13 would be able to advise such tenants of a number of registered contractors able to proceed with such work. Also Mr. Ainsworth as a registered approved Electrician would be able to quote for any electrical re-wires deemed necessary for the improvement and safe ty of their homes.

ITS OUR EXPRESS WISH TO BRING -

THE NEWS
LONGSIGHT NEWS
WEST INDIAN WORLD
CARIBBEAN WEEKLY POST
JAMAICAN WEEKLY GLEANER
BLACK MUSIC
BLUES & SOUL
BLACK ECHOES
DAILY JANG (in Urdu)

KEEP WITH THE TIMES AT -

HENNRY'S

Newsagents, Tobacconist, Sweets, etc. 43 Slade Lane, Longsight.

WHAT DID YOU TELL THAT MAN JUST NOW?
I TOLD HIM TO WORK FASTER!
HOW MUCH DO YOU PAY HIM?
£10 A DAY...
WHERE DO YOU GET THE MONEY TO PAY HIM?
I SELL PRODUCTS
WHO MAKES THE PRODUCTS?
HE DOES...
HOW MANY PRODUCTS DOES HE MAKE IN ONE DAY?
£50 WORTH
THEN INSTEAD OF YOU PAYING HIM - HE IS PAYING YOU £40 A DAY TO TELL HIM TO WORK FASTER!
HUH?
BUT THE MACHINES BELONG TO ME-
HOW DID YOU GET THE MACHINES?
SOLD PRODUCTS AND BOUGHT THEM
AND WHO MADE THOSE PRODUCTS?
SHUT UP - HE MIGHT HEAR YOU!

SNAIL GRAPHICS

17 Darlington Road
Manchester 20

SNAIL GRAPHICS produce two colour hang-up posters, 23" x 16", of which the above is a sample, by people who are concerned to sharpen community education in a novel way. The posters cost 75p individually and £1.40 for two. The address is Snail Graphics, 17 Darlington Road, Manchester 20.

If you are interested in taking part in informal discussions about communal living, please contact us c/o Whatwork, 178 Oxford Road, Manchester 13. We are trying to start an ongoing forum of ideas, views, problems, etc. relating to communal living.

LONGSIGHT NEWS MEETINGS

Everyone welcome to bring along their news and views. Wednesday 19th January at the Coach and Horses, Stockport Road, 8.30pm.

****

LAW CENTRE

As from the 8th Jan.77 the Law Centre will be open from 11.00am-2.00pm on Saturdays as well as the present times.

DEADLINE for next edition is 16th February. Meeting to decide what's going in 16th February 8pm at 113 Hamilton Raod. Everyone welcome.

THE LONGSIGHT GARDENING CLUB

is still open for new members. Trade Discounts. Talks on plant growing. Plant swops. Flower arranging. Drying flowers and leaves which is what we are doing next.